

THE GHOSTLY GUARDIANS.

An Old Legend Recalled by Recent Discoveries in the State of New York.

The Cruise of a French Soldier to Discover the Hiding Place of a Treasure.

The Fate of the Harding Brothers, Who Made an Attempt to Possess the Treasure Trove.

A recent flood in Camp Creek, in the town of Woodhull, this county, forced the creek through its banks on the farm of Sidney Harrington. When the waters subsided it was found that a ledge of rock had been exposed by the washout. The rock contained a substance that yielded to the knife like lead. A quantity of it was dug out of the stone. It was very heavy and melted in a ladle readily.

This discovery has revived interest in the traditions of Steuben county about lead and silver mines that were known only to the Indians, says a Hammondsport special to the New York Sun. One of these traditions located a lead mine in what is now the town of Woodhull, and citizens of that town believe that the laying bare by the flood of the ledge with the traces of lead in it has given them a clue to the exact locality of the old Indian mine, and that there is now a probability of the main deposit being discovered. Other legends of mineral deposits and hidden treasures are recalled to old residents of the county by this uncovering of the alleged lead ore in Woodhull, the most interesting of which has its scenes laid in the town of Jasper.

"The original settlers of Jasper believed as confidently as they believed in anything that somewhere within the boundary of the town a rich silver mine existed," says an old resident of Hammondsport. "And their descendants, many of them, believe it still. This belief is based on a legend. About the breaking out of the French and Indian war two Quaker brothers of the name of Dickinson came into the Cohocton valley to trade with the Indians. The brothers gained the confidence of the Indians to such an extent that the latter discovered to the Quakers a silver mine, the existence of which had long been a secret with the Indians. The mine was somewhere along Bennett's creek. The brothers lost no time in taking advantage of the discovery, and they worked the mine, the silver in which was exceedingly pure, night and day. The treasure they took from the mine they stored in a cave, the location of which was known only to themselves, being their intention, according to the legend, to have it removed to Philadelphia.

"These Quakers had another brother in Philadelphia. There was also with them in the woods an old and trusted family servant, but not old enough or trusted enough, it would seem by the tenor of the tradition, to be taken into the confidence of the wily Quakers. Near the close of the French and Indian war a stranger appeared at the cabin of the Quakers, which was in the deepest part of the wilderness. He said he had stumbled upon the cabin by accident as he was fleeing from pursuit, having deserted from the French army. Just where the army was the legend does not state. The stranger begged for food and shelter, which was gladly furnished to him by the benevolent Quakers.

"That night, after he had retired to the couch of bear skins prepared for him in one corner of the cabin, he overheard the Quakers talking about their hidden treasure, and from what they said he learned that they intended to start their old servant the next morning on his way to Philadelphia with a message to his brother there. This message was to give their brother minute instructions as to the location of the cave, so that he could find it in case anything happened to the brothers in the wilderness. This thoughtfulness on the part of the kind old Quakers started the stranger to thinking a little on his own account. The result of his thinking was a determination to kill the two Quakers in the morning, to follow the old servant as he wended Philadelphiaward, kill him and possess himself of the important message himself and all that it implied. The legend doesn't say, but it is to be presumed that the grateful French deserter then said his prayers and went to sleep.

"Early next morning the old servant, with the faithful message hidden in his garments, bade a fearful adieu to his masters and turned his steps toward Philadelphia. The French deserter, while thanking the Quakers for their hospitality, whipped his knife from his boot somewhere, and stabbed them to death. Then he followed the old servant and at last overtook him. He buried his knife in the faithful old servant's back, and without any explanation rided him of the message. The servant died right away, and the French deserter took the paper that was to reveal to him the storehouse of gold and wealth. I suppose that he was about the hottest man that ever lived when he found that the Quakers had been so inconsiderate as to write the message in cipher. The chances are that the Frenchman just mentioned hopped and swore in that primeval forest, although the legend doesn't actually make that declaration. He was unable to find a key that would solve the mystery of the cipher, and legend says that years afterward a grinning skeleton was found, with its long hands clutching its skull where there had presumably been hair at one time, sitting at a crumpled table in the Quaker's cabin, while before this reminiscence of a man lay a paper, yellow with age, and inscribed with mysterious figures.

The paper shook itself into impalpable dust when it was touched, and the bones rattled like a castnet solo as they fell to the floor. The skeleton was accepted as that of the French deserter, and the vanishing paper was the Quaker's cipher message, of course. The Frenchman had died while trying to solve it. That was all the satisfaction the legend would give the honest settlers when they went to that part of Steuben county and pre-empted the wilderness.

"Now come some more incidents connected with this legendary treasure that are so recent as to have been contemporary with people who are living to-day, but they are none the less strange. I don't know them to be true, but there are people who say they do know them to be true. If they are, they are stranger than any I ever heard. A man named Gregory Harding settled in the town of Jasper eight years ago. He made a clearing there. At that time the legend of the silver mine and the Quakers' hidden cave of treasures was a subject of daily conversation among the scattered settlers. Harding hadn't been in the locality long when he had a dream. He dreamed that near his cabin there was a cave, the opening of which was covered by a large, flat stone, upon which was a copper kettle. In the cave was stored enormous wealth in silver, but it was guarded by two ghostly sentinels. Harding concluded not to investigate the accuracy of this dream. Not long afterward a twin brother of Harding joined him in the wilderness. The first night he was there this twin brother had a dream that corresponded in every way with that of Gregory Harding. This was regarded by the two as corroborative evidence of the cave's existence, and the brother made a search for the treasure

trove. They found the locality just as they had seen it in their dreams, and discovered the copper kettle and the flat rock; but remembering the two spectres that guarded the treasure beneath, they resolved not to disturb the hiding place further at that time, intending to let some of the other settlers in on the ground floor, so to speak, in return for their encouraging presence, at the opening at some future time. The next day Gregory Harding was killed by a tree he was felling and his brother was thrown from a horse and killed. The secret of the cave died with them.

"The fate of the Harding brothers seems to have discouraged the settlers in dreaming out the whereabouts of the specter-cave, and do effort was made to get at the idle capital it contained until about 1830. In that year the Rev. Anson Green of the Genesee valley, not hold of a scheme to recover the Quakers' wealth. Mr. Green was a Methodist preacher, and consequently was in need of some money. He had found a young lady somewhere in Genesee county who had a remarkable piece of glass, by looking into which she had done some wonderful discovering. He brought her over into Jasper and set her to looking. She only gave one look in her glass and saw, just as plain as day, the cave where the treasure of the murdered Quakers was hidden. The treasure itself, and the exact location of the cave, Mr. Green asked her, with some anxiety, if she could make out with any distinctness the two spectre watchmen. She said she couldn't see anything of them at all. Then Mr. Green told her to come along and they would go and uncover the riches and take it back to the Genesee with them. She went along and found the place where the cave was, but at that instant was stricken blind and was unable to see a thing, even with her magic glass. Dominic Green led her away to the house of the Rev. Jedediah Stephens, who lived in the vicinity, and there she got her sight back.

"Dominic Green told what had happened, and Dominic Stephens' son Silas said he'd like to take a hack at that glass. Silas looked in the glass and saw the cave, and all the appurtenances thereunto belonging, but Silas was the only one of the family who could see it. Silas' brother Nathan wanted Silas to go right along with him and they'd find the cave and go snacks on the silver, but Silas said he guessed he wouldn't go. But Nathan insisted, and at last Silas led the way toward the cave. But there was any use. Just as they got near the spot Silas was stricken blind; the same as Dominic Green's seeress had been. Nathan told his brother to never mind that, but to just describe things to him, as he had seen them in the glass; but then Silas became so blind, and was suddenly knocked speechless, and they had to come back. Silas got both his sight and his speech when he reached home. Since then folks have been careful old Quakers alone in their watch of their treasure, and I really don't believe now that we'll ever get a hold of that snug hoard."

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I had a racking cough and inflamed throat and bought a bottle of Ayer's English Remedy upon the recommendation of a friend, and was entirely cured by it. I consider it a never failing remedy for a cough.

J. FELDINGER.

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When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria.
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Is one of the most prevalent of diseases. Few persons have perfect digestion. One of Ayer's Pills, taken after dinner, or a dose at night before retiring, never fails to give relief in the worst cases, and wonderfully assists the process of nutrition. As a family medicine, Ayer's Pills are unequalled.

James Quinn, 90 Middle st., Hartford, Conn., testifies: "I have used Ayer's Pills for the past thirty years and consider them an invaluable family medicine. I know of no better remedy for liver troubles, and have always found them a prompt cure for dyspepsia."

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LAND NOTICES.

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION.
LAND OFFICE AT HELENA, MONT.
September 20, 1889.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE FOLLOWING named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before register and receiver of Helena, Mont., on November 2, 1889, viz: Cyrus Clapp, who made D. & N. 2684, 1 E. 205 for the sw¹/₄, nw¹/₄, and nw¹/₄, sec. 13 and 14, sec. 14, tp. 17 N. R. 1 W.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of said land, viz: Edwin E. James, of Chestnut, Mont.; Charles M. Spaulding, of St. Clair, Mont.; Thomas L. Gorham, of St. Clair, Mont.; John A. Harris, of Chestnut, Mont.

S. W. LANGHORN, Register.

First publication Oct. 1, 1889.

NOTICE.

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE,
HELENA, MONT., Sept. 13, 1889.
COMPLAINT HAVING BEEN ENTERED AT this office by Robert A. Day against Viola V. Hoyt and heirs for abandoning her homestead entry No. 288, dated May 23, 1888, upon the sw¹/₄, section 36, township 10, north range 4 west, in Lewis and Clarke county, Montana, with a view to the cancellation of said entry, the parties are hereby summoned to appear at this office on the 30th day of October, 1889, at 10 o'clock a. m. to respond and furnish testimony concerning said alleged abandonment.

S. W. LANGHORN, Register.

A. H. NELSON, Attorney for contestant.

First publication Sept. 20.

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Land and Mining Atty.

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THE HAZELWOOD LAND COMPANY has generously determined to donate the proceeds of two houses and two hundred lots to the hospitals of the city, and has purchased this property with a view to disposing of it at a small advance over cost and devoting the net proceeds to the charities above mentioned; and proposes to issue tickets to be sold for \$2.50 each for the purpose of raising money to help carry on the work. They have placed the tickets on sale throughout the country, and upon December 31, 1889, a committee consisting of twelve prominent citizens will take all the numbers of tickets sold and place them in a box; they will then be thoroughly mixed and a boy blindfolded will place his hand in the box and draw out one number, and whoever holds the corresponding number will be awarded one house and the pair of lots upon which it is built. Then the fifth number drawn shall be awarded a lot, then the tenth number a lot, and so on, every thirty-fifth number drawn shall be awarded a lot until the two hundred and sixth number shall be drawn, which shall entitle the holder to the corresponding number which shall be drawn, to the remaining house and pair of lots.

All the above property is guaranteed to be free of any and all liens, mortgages or anything that will impair a title. A warranty deed assuring a perfect title will be made to every lucky ticket holder who wins a prize. The tickets are only placed at \$2.50, and besides a standing show to get a beautiful home worth \$6,000 or a lot worth \$250. You are aiding one of the grandest charities which has ever asked of you. Purchase your tickets of any agent or traveling canvasser who has proper credentials. Deeds are deposited with the Puget Sound National Bank.

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